



Sustainability Advisory Committee

**MINUTES
SAC COMMITTEE
February 25, 2016
CITY HALL A/B CONFERENCE ROOM**

ROLL CALL:

Pamela Fournier, Chair
George Hettich
Richard Marx
Stan Braude
Gina Nakis
Joe Miller
Brad Bernstein, Clayton School District Representative
Rich Lintz, Aldermanic Representative
Ira Berkowitz, Aldermanic Representative

ABSENT:

Alex Bornstein
Cindy Mense

CITY STAFF:

Dale Houdeshell, Director of Public Works
Daneen Schlereth, Recording Secretary

Pam opened the meeting at 4:30pm introducing our guest speaker, Cassie Hage from Washington University's Sustainability Efforts.

Ms. Hage informed the committee that Washington University had been invested in sustainability related initiatives for years and created its first institutional strategic plan for sustainability in 2010.

The 2010 Strategic Plan for Sustainability Operations was to set a goal to reduce the university's greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 without leaving a carbon footprint. The plan had seven key areas to achieve the goal: energy reduction, green building, alternative transportation, food systems, landscape, and waste and culture.

Ms. Hage said the 2010 Strategic plan has been very successful in its sustainability initiatives, she said they have reduced energy use across the campus. On the Danforth and Medical Campus they added 4,943,410 new square feet, nearly doubling the size; however they held energy use flat. From 2010 to 2015, the university's carb emissions decreased by 17, 199 metric tons of carbon monoxide, which is compared to removing 3,600 cars from the road, despite the addition of new space.

The Danforth & Medical campuses recently completed the installation of energy meters in all buildings. The meter system allowed us to quickly identify and correct inefficiencies.

In the community she said they have included a wide variety of student-run organizations, staff driven programs and several new courses involving energy issues, ecology, public health and urban design.

Washington University Dining Services received the 2014 National Association of College & University Food Services Sustainability Gold Award for Excellence in Waste Management. This award was due to the many efforts to reduce waste, including donating unused food, composting initiatives, and converting fryer oil to biodiesel.

The university has invested in numerous alternative transportation initiatives: CarShare programs and free unlimited public transportation access for all full time staff, faculty and students. The university also added a new full time Alternative Transportation Coordinator.

Ms. Hage said with all the progress Washington University had achieved it allowed us to revisit our original 2010 goals and set even more ambitious goals for the future. The university finalized and developed the 2015 Strategic Plan for Sustainable Operations. These goals fit into the same seven keys from 2010's plan, however it added an 8th focus area – water. The university's goal for water since it is a new focus is to decrease portable water use by 15% by 2020, relative to a 2010 baseline.

The following are the 2015 strategic plans 8 focus areas:

- Energy & Emissions
- Buildings
- Community
- Food
- Landscape
- Transportation
- Waste
- Water

Ms. Hage wrapped up her presentation with a few questions and provided the committee with the website address. She said the plan is online if anyone wanted to read further into the strategic plan that Washington University is committed too.

www.sustainability.wustl.edu.

Pam thanked Cassie Hage for speaking to the committee.

December meeting minutes were approved by Richard Marx and seconded by Joe Miller.

Old Business

Pam asked the committee on what they thought of asking other departments in the City 2 questions.

What is your best sustainability activity?

What would your department like to see in the future of sustainability?

The committee said they saw no harm in asking; however Dale said he doesn't think we would get much feedback, considering most of the departments aren't involved in much of the sustainability within the city. Ira suggested we include the schools as well.

Bringing Conservation Home Update

Rich informed the committee Dale and himself spoke with Mitch Leachman from the Audubon Society, Mr. Leachman originally presented the concept to the committee last year. Rich said he brought it up at the board meeting Tuesday night; the city needs to make a commitment. The commitment would be a partnership between the city and the St. Louis Audubon Society; residents would have the option to pay \$25 to have their yards reviewed. Pam said the city didn't follow through after Mr. Leachman originally presented his ideas to the committee, however basically the city just needs to publish his brochure one time during the year in the City Views.

The Bring Conservation Home Program offers advice in landscaping with environmentally healthy and sustainable native plant species, the removal of invasive plant species such as bush honeysuckle, water conservation on the urban landscape, and other stewardship practices that promote healthy habitat for birds, native wildlife and people.

Mulch Delivery Update

Dale handed out an informational sheet and informed the committee this information will be available on the website and the next upcoming newsletter. Dale informed the committee the leaves are being hauled out; the city will get some mulch back for the city use, but will not be available free for the residents. The committee was upset that the free mulch will not be available.

It was asked why we couldn't work with Richmond Heights and haul our leaves to their mulch pile. Dale informed the committee the city attempted to work with both Richmond Heights and University City to try and find a mutual area for the mulch pile. However he said Richmond Heights is going to be in the same boat we were in shortly, they are also increasing their mulch fees.

Brad asked if the environmental issues could have been addressed before the city got rid of the mulch pile.

Dale informed the committee, U-city was also cited for their mulch pile. Several reasons would have been very costly to the city. Dale said the final decision was made by the Board of Alderman. Several of the members were upset with the increase in cost to have it delivered.

Pam asked if we could discuss further at the next meeting. The committee agreed.

New Business

The committee agreed to change the meeting time back to 5pm.

Pam informed the committee Tony LaMantia from Republic Services will be the guest speaker at the next meeting.

Pam closed the meeting at 5:30pm.

Next meeting scheduled for **Thursday, April 28th, 2016.**

cc: June Waters, City Clerk